

## **GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors revise statute 2.43.03 GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM; REQUIREMENTS, effective fall term, 2018.

### **Background**

The current General Education program was adopted in 1986. Since then, the curriculum has not undergone a major revision. In 2013, a comprehensive review and analysis of the current program and the desired future program was undertaken. After review of the recommendations of the General Education Oversight Committee and consideration of subsequent amendments recommended by the Academic Senate, a new curriculum is recommended for adoption, effective fall term 2018. With a focus on student success and degree attainment, the new curriculum reduces the overall number of distinct requirements and credit hours required while explicitly embracing elements central to the mission of Wayne State University.

### **Current Statute**

#### **2.43.03 General Education Program; Requirements**

2.43.03.010

All undergraduate students must fulfill University-wide General Education requirements in the following areas:

2.43.03.020

#### **COMPETENCIES REQUIREMENTS**

Success in college and the ability to function as an educated citizen require not only the ability to master areas of substantive knowledge, but also a series of

fundamental skills that underlie and make possible the acquisition of knowledge. Since competencies or skills are preconditions for higher education, what is needed is demonstration of the competency, not a specific course requirement. Therefore, in the competency areas, multiple methods of demonstrating competency shall be available, including satisfactory completion of designated courses, earning an appropriate score on designated examinations, or, in some instances, satisfactory completion of specified high school courses.

2.43.03.030 Written Communication

Basic Composition. All students must demonstrate competence in basic English composition. Basic composition competence shall be determined by satisfactory completion of a designated course, or its course equivalent; earning advanced placement credit for basic composition; or, passing a prescribed placement examination.

2.43.03.040

Intermediate Course. All students must complete satisfactorily a designated intermediate, or more advanced, course in which the teaching of English composition and rhetoric is a major component.

2.43.03.050

Proficiency Examination. All students must demonstrate proficiency in composition between the completion of 45 and 75 credit hours by passing the Wayne State University English Proficiency Examination. Students posting an unsatisfactory score on this proficiency examination must satisfactorily pass the prescribed English course (e.g., English 1080).

2.43.03.060

College/School/Department Requirements. All students must demonstrate that they have developed the ability to communicate effectively with specialized or professional audiences by completing successfully the writing requirements, or courses which incorporate major writing assignments, specified by the departments or professional schools in which they are seeking a degree..

2.43.03.070

Mathematics Proficiency

Proficiency in mathematics must be demonstrated by all students prior to completion of the first 30 credit hours taken at Wayne State University. Mathematics proficiency shall be determined by (i) a “baseline” MAT course at the 1000-level; or (ii) any MAT course at a higher level; or (iii) a course approved by the General Education Oversight committee as equivalent to the course selected as the baseline for competency. The Mathematics Competency/Placement Examination shall be revised to reflect the baseline course, and the revised examination shall be approved by the president or her/his

designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee. Other acceptable measures are: an appropriate mathematics score on national standardized tests, e.g., CEEB, CLEP; a passing score on designated placement or proficiency tests; or, by satisfactory completion of designated mathematics courses, or their course equivalents.

2.43.03.080 Oral Communication

All students must demonstrate competency in the fundamentals of oral communication. Oral communication competency shall be determined by satisfactory completion of a designated basic speech course, or by demonstrating equivalency.

2.43.03.090 Computer Literacy

All students must demonstrate basic computer competency and discipline-specific proficiency.

2.43.03.100 Level I Basic Computer Competency (CL)

Prior to the completion of 30 credits at Wayne State University, the Level I requirement should be achieved through one of the following three (3) options.

1. Passing the Basic Computer Competency Examination;
2. Successfully completing a basic computer competency course as approved by the president or her/his designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee;
3. Transferring credit for successful completion of a comparable course taken at another college or university.

2.43.03.110 Level II Computer Proficiency (CP)

Prior to graduation, all students must demonstrate discipline/major/program-specific computer literacy. The CP requirement may be a non-credit component of a course within the student's major or a required course in the major, which incorporates computer assignments that facilitate transition to a professional role, including consideration of ethical issues. Students should consult their school or departmental advisors for the approved course(s) in their major.

2.43.03.120

Colleges/departments/programs, as appropriate, must designate an upper-division course (or courses) to fulfill the CP requirement in their majors. The course should provide guidance in the critical evaluation of electronic resources in the major as well as training in the use of discipline/major/program-specific hardware, software, and scholarly electronic resources. The CP course(s) must

be approved by the President or his/her designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee.

2.43.03.130 Critical or Analytic Thinking

Competency in critical thinking must be demonstrated by all students prior to completion of the first 75 credits earned toward a bachelor degree. Competency shall be determined by passing a prescribed test on critical thinking, or by satisfactory completion of a designated course or its equivalent.

2.43.03.140 GROUP REQUIREMENTS

Fundamental to any set of General Education requirements at the university level are courses designed to ensure that all students have some exposure to certain branches of knowledge. The group requirements mandate students to take a number of courses in areas outside their fields of special interest to provide the intellectual breadth necessary for completion of the major and for continuing self-education later in life.

2.43.03.150

All students must fulfill the following group requirements by satisfactory completion of designated courses in each area; or, by an appropriate score on designated placement, national or departmental examinations.

2.43.03.160 Natural Sciences

All students are required to complete successfully at least two courses (a minimum of 3 credits each) in the natural sciences (one in the physical sciences and one in the life sciences). To permit the individual student to experience the role of systematic observation in the promulgation of scientific knowledge, a minimum one-credit laboratory or interactive demonstrations or simulations must be associated with at least one of these courses.

2.43.03.170 Historical Studies

All students must complete a course in historical studies (minimum of 3 credit hours).

2.43.03.180 Social Sciences

All students must complete successfully two courses in the social sciences (minimum of 3 credit hours each). One course must be elected from each of the following two groups: (1) American Society and Institutions; and (2) Social Science.

2.43.03.190 Foreign Culture

All students are required to complete at least one course in the study of a foreign culture (minimum of 3 credit hours).

2.43.03.200 Humanities

All students must complete successfully two courses in the humanities (minimum of 3 credit hours each). One course must be elected from each of the following two groups: (1) Visual and Performing Arts; (2) Philosophy and Letters. Studio and applied courses in the Visual and Performing Arts must be approved by the president or his/her designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee as demonstrating that the course(s) fulfills the criteria of the Humanities requirement.

2.43.03.210 OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The current UGE 1000 will be suspended from the group requirement. The University Library and Information Sciences Program is encouraged to revise their proposal for a General Education course on information technology. The new proposal will be approved by the president or his/her designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee.

2.43.03.220 Effective Date

The General Education requirements shall become effective for students on the following schedule:

- Fall 2005: For entering freshmen and students who transfer fewer than 12 credit hours.
- Fall 2006: For transfer students who began college work Fall 2005 or thereafter.
- Fall 2005: For all new undergraduate students.

2.43.03.230

During the phase-in period, all transfer students must continue to meet the University requirements in mathematics and English proficiency and the American Government requirement.

2.43.03.240

The President shall establish the date for implementation. That date shall occur at the earliest time consistent with the creation of the necessary courses and competency tests provided by this statute and with the development of administrative mechanisms necessary to monitor student fulfillment of these requirements.

2.43.03.250 IMPLEMENTATION

General Education Oversight Committee

The president or his/her designee shall establish an Oversight Committee for the purpose of making recommendations on the implementation and review of the General Education curriculum. The committee will be representative of the University community as a whole and as follows:

2.43.03.260

One (1) representative each from the colleges of Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Nursing, Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and Social Work; two (2) representatives from the college of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts; a number of representatives from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences equal to the number of representatives from the schools and colleges listed above; and one (1) representative, ex officio and without vote, from the University Libraries. The committee shall decide the number of student representatives.

2.43.03.270

The provost or her/his designee shall appoint the committee chair.

2.43.03.280 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The philosophy, specific criteria, and guidelines governing the establishment and implementation of the General Education requirements are set forth in the report of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee on General Education requirements, as approved by the Academic Senate on February 5, 1986, and endorsed in principle by the Board of Governors on February 14, 1986. All courses which satisfy the General Education requirements must be approved as General Education courses by the President or his/her designee after review by the General Education Oversight Committee. The following general guidelines should prevail in implementation of the requirements:

2.43.03.290

- A student can present no more than two courses in any subject area to be counted toward fulfilling either group requirements or exposure areas. Exemption from this limit is for majors in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program for the subject areas, IH, ISP IST and ISS and for curricular course sequences in certain special programs (Black Studies, Chicano-Boricua Studies, the Honors Program) deemed equivalent to specified General Education courses by the president or his/her designee after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee.

2.43.03.300

- Equivalent courses taken at another institution may satisfy General Education requirements. In cases where this would exceed the limitation of 64 credit hours from a community college accepted on a transfer basis, such courses shall satisfy the requirements, but their credits will not count toward the degree.

2.43.03.310

- It is the primary responsibility of departments whose courses are granted General Education status to schedule these courses to fit the special programming needs of students in professional programs.

2.43.03.320

- Satisfactory scores on advanced placement examinations (AP and CLEP) and special departmental examinations must be accepted as fulfilling General Education requirements in the appropriate competencies or group requirements.

2.43.03.330

- Departments, schools and colleges have the responsibility to develop or select tests which students may take to complete competency and group requirements and to recommend those to the General Education Oversight Committee for review. The president or his/her designee will approve the tests after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee.

2.43.03.340

- A student who satisfies competency requirements by examination shall be excused from the related course, but may receive no course credit.

2.43.03.350

- Course credit granted upon earning an appropriate score on advanced placement, CLEP, or departmental examinations will satisfy the General Education group requirement and award credit toward degree requirements.

2.43.03.360

- Courses used to satisfy competency requirements shall not be used to satisfy group requirements.

**Recommended Statute****2.43.03                   General Education Program**

2.43.03.010           The University will have a General Education Program that all undergraduates must fulfill as part of a Bachelor's Degree program at Wayne State University. The General Education Program shall be comprised of Competencies, Group Requirements, and Wayne Experience Requirements. The General Education Program shall not require more than 32 credits.

2.43.03.020           Competencies

Success in college and the ability to function as an educated citizen require not only the mastery of areas of substantive knowledge, but also acquisition of fundamental skills or competencies that underlie the acquisition of knowledge. Since these competencies are preconditions for higher education, multiple methods of demonstrating competency shall be available, including satisfactory completion of designated courses, earning an appropriate score on designated examinations, or, in some instances, satisfactory completion of specified high school courses.

2.43.03.030                   Written Communication  
   Basic Composition (BC)  
   Intermediate (IC; choice of one)  
   Intermediate Composition  
   Writing in the discipline

2.43.03.040           Oral Communication (OC)

2.43.03.050           Quantitative Experience (QE; choice of one)  
   Algebra-Math (Math 1050 or any higher Math course)  
   Statistics (STA 1020, BA 2300 or other approved course)  
   Quantitative Reasoning (any approved QR course)  
   All QE options will offer co-requisite support as deemed appropriate

2.43.03.060           Group Requirements

Fundamental to the university-level General Education requirements are courses designed to ensure that all students have some exposure to important areas of knowledge. Group requirements include courses that provide intellectual breadth important for completion of and complement their majors and is necessary for an understanding of public life and continuing self-education throughout the life-course.

Each student must complete a minimum of six courses of at least 3 credits each from the following Inquiry groups, with at least one course from each Inquiry group

- 2.43.03.070 Cultural Inquiry (CI)
- 2.43.03.080 Natural Scientific Inquiry (NSI) with a lab section.
- 2.43.03.090 Social Inquiry (SI)
- 2.43.03.100 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Inquiry (DEI)
- 2.43.03.110 Global Learning Inquiry (GL)
- 2.43.03.120 Civic Literacy (CIV)

- 2.43.03.130 Wayne Experience (WE; 1 credit)

Wayne Experience is the opportunity to work with a small group of students with similar interests to become immersed in the Wayne State University campus and community, including understanding the challenges and opportunities offered by a research university in an urban setting. The essential goals for this requirement are to foster a sense of belonging, acculturate the student to the WSU academic community, and cultivate the skills to navigate the college experience, all within the context of exploring a topic of interest.

Students must select one WE course based on their needs and interests.

- 2.43.03.140 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The philosophy, specific criteria, and guidelines governing the establishment and implementation of the General Education requirements are set forth in the report of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee on General Education requirements, as approved by the Academic Senate on February 5, 1986, and endorsed in principle by the Board of Governors on February 14, 1986. The current revision adheres to these principles.

Any future revisions to the General Education curriculum requirements established herein should consider the appropriate balance between curricular requirements, the overall goals of student success, and degree attainment.

- 2.43.03.150 Guidelines

The following general guidelines shall prevail in implementation of the requirements:

- 2.43.03.160 All courses that satisfy General Education requirements must be approved as General Education Program courses by the President or his/her designee after review and recommendation by the General Education Oversight Committee.

- 2.43.03.170 Equivalent courses taken at another institution may satisfy General Education requirements. In cases where this would exceed the limitation of 64 credit hours

from a community college accepted on a transfer basis, such courses shall satisfy the requirements, but their credits will not count toward the degree.

- 2.43.03.180 It is the primary responsibility of departments whose courses are granted General Education Program status to schedule these courses to fit the special programming needs of students in professional programs.
- 2.43.03.190 Satisfactory scores on advanced placement examinations, CLEP and special departmental examinations shall be accepted as fulfilling General Education requirements in the appropriate competencies or group requirements.
- 2.43.03.200 Departments, schools and colleges have the responsibility to develop or select tests which students may take to complete competency and group requirements and to recommend those to the General Education Oversight Committee for review. The president or his/her designee will approve the tests after recommendation from the General Education Oversight Committee.
- 2.43.03.210 A student who satisfies competency requirements by examination shall be excused from taking the related course, but may receive no course credit.
- 2.43.03.220 Course credit granted upon earning an appropriate score on advanced placement, CLEP, or departmental examinations will satisfy the General Education Program group requirement and award credit toward degree requirements.
- 2.43.03.230 **IMPLEMENTATION**  
General Education Oversight Committee
- In consultation with the Academic Senate, the president or his/her designee shall establish a General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC) for the purpose of making recommendations to the President on the implementation, review, assessment, and revision of the General Education Program curriculum. Recommendations to modify the General Education Program adopted by the president or his/her designee shall be published in the University Bulletin. On a regular basis, the GEOC shall issue a report on its actions and recommendations to the president or his/her designee.
- 2.43.03.240 The GEOC will be representative of the University community as a whole as follows: One (1) representative each from the colleges of Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Nursing, Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and Social Work; two (2) representatives from the college of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts; four (4) representatives from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; one (1) representative, ex officio, from the University Libraries; one (1) representative, ex officio, from the Academic Senate. The committee shall decide the number of student representatives.

2.43.03.250           The president or her/his designee shall appoint the committee chair

2.43.03.260           Effective Date and Publication in the University Bulletin:

The General Education Program, as revised herein, shall become effective fall semester 2018 and shall be published in the University Bulletin. Future revisions to the curriculum adopted by the president or her/his designee in consultation with GEOC shall go into effect upon publication in the University Bulletin.

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Adopted \_\_\_\_; Official Proceedings \_\_\_\_; Prior Acts: Official Proceedings 49: (2 March 2005); 30:4116 (9 May 1986).

#### **Approvals**

This proposal was approved by the Provost after consultation with the General Education Oversight Committee and the Academic Senate.